

Te Mana O te Vaka

Project Update - Phase 1

Sennit Preparation - part 1

Gathering green coconut, husking and beating the puru

Sennit is a cord or rope that is made from plaiting strands of dry natural fibre, in this case puru (coconut fibre from the husk). Traditionally, the making of sennit was done using the puru of the green coconut husk.

On Saturday July 16, 2022 members of Gallery Tavioni & Vananga, the Cook Islands Voyage Society (CIVS), the Cook Islands Traditional Arts Trust (CITAT) and friends and family, met with Papa Mike at Gallery Tavioni in Atupa. Papa Mike had arranged the collection of green coconut from the land of Aunty Mere and Papa Pēpē in Arorangi.



Land owner Pēpē with Papa Mike (*above*)

The nu gathering team (*top left*)



Watching as one of the boys scales the tumu nu (coconut tree) with ease! (*left*)

Over 100 green nu were collected off the trees by climbers and by using a hook for the lower trees. The nu were all transported back to Gallery Tavioni where everyone helped to husk and beat the puru.



After the puru was beaten using an 'ike (wooden beater), it was put into a tarpaulin and covered to keep the moisture in and ensure the sun didn't dry the fibre.



The whole operation stopped when night fell and it became too dark to see. A kaikai with fresh nu and food was shared to celebrate the days success. Over another few hours the next day, the last of the puru was beaten and added to the pile. The whole operation took a total of 7 hours with 19 helpers.

Project contacts

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